

# PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

WHAT TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW

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## **OUR GOAL**

• TO IMPROVE SCHOOL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS BY PROVIDING TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WITH THE SKILLS TO STRENGHTHEN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM-LEVEL PREVENTION, MITIGATION, PROTECTION, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY CAPABILITIES.



#### WHY PREPARE

- PREVENT, PROTECT AGAINST, MITIGATE, RESPOND TO, AND RECOVER FROM THREATS AND HAZARDS THAT PROPOSE RISK
- IMPROVE RESPONSE RATES AND EFFICIENCY
- PREVENT INJURIES AND SAVE LIVES

REMEMBER!!! NOT EVERY INCIDENT IS AN EMERGENCY



## CLASSROOM TEACHER ROLES

- SUPERVISION
- PROACTIVITY
- DIRECTION
- LEADERSHIP
- REPORTING
- IMPLEMENTATION
- DECISION-MAKING
- FLEXIBILITY
- FIRST AID



## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL
- BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
- SUMMER SCHOOL
- FIELD TRIPS
- ATHLETIC EVENTS
- DURING PASSING PERIODS
- ON SCHOOL BUSES



## DURING AN EMERGENCY

• "IN ANY MOMENT OF DECISION, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS THE RIGHT THING, THE NEXT BEST THING IS THE WRONG THING, AND THE WORST THING IS NOTHING." THEODORE ROOSEVELT



### WHEN SECONDS COUNT

- RESPOND VS. REACT
- VISUALIZATION
- PRACTICE
- TRAINING
- SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



## LIABILITY ISSUES

- Act in good faith
- Know your state and local laws and policies



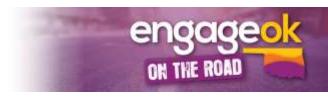
# RESPONSE ACTIVATION: Functional Annexes

- Definition of Functional Annex
- What is your responsibility?
- What is your role as a "first responder"?
- How do you drill?
- Are you prepared?



# Hazard-Specific Annex and Actions

- Visualize
- Discuss
- Practice



## AFTER EMERGENCIES: OBJECTIVES

- Describe actions to enhance academic, physical, fiscal, psychological, and emotional recovery.
- Describe the immediate and long-term emergency preparedness roles and responsibilities of classroom teachers.
- Describe the measures needed to establish accountability.
- Identify actions to address specific issues(e.g., missing or injured students, etc.)
- Demonstrate the reunification process for families and students and apply best practices using scenarios and personal experiences

# Physical Recovery

- Document destruction or damage to school or classroom assets
- Prepare to access records after an emergency



# Fiscal Recovery

- How will staff receive timely and factual information regarding returning to work?
- How will teachers document key information for disaster-fund reimbursement?
- ADA- 17% or below. Close School



# Psychological and Emotional Recovery

- Teachers may be asked, if trained to do so, to assist with providing Psychological First Aid.
- Memorials pose particular challenges.
- Teachers and staff may be directly involved in the functions/activities surrounding memorials.
- Recognize the "anniversary effect."
- Utilize NASP for resources



# Teachers' Roles and Responsibilities

- Directing students to inside or outside assembly areas
- Accounting for students when class either relocates to an outside or inside assembly area, or evacuates to another location
- Reporting missing students to the Incident Commander or designee
- Obtaining first aid services for injured students



# Maintaining a Calm Environment

- Provide appropriate factual information
- Avoid making any additional, non-essential changes to set routines
- Create an accepting atmosphere in which students can voice concerns, feelings, and fears
- Provide healthy outlets for the expression of emotions



# Managing The Situation

- Maintain Self-Control
- Maintain Situational Awareness
- Assess Resources
- Deploy "Buddy System"



## Reunification

- Double-gate system of reunification
- Verify
- Facilitate communication
- Ensure that students do not leave on their own
- Consider students with vehicles
- On-site reunification or off-site reunification depending on hazard
- Protect privacy from media
- Reduce confusion
- Provide updates
- Assist in addressing barriers



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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